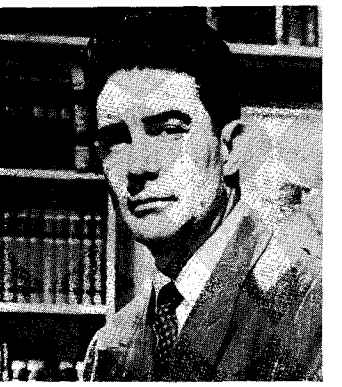
THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 12, No. 25 (Broadcast 565) June 20, 1966 Dallas, Texas



DAN SMOOT

PLANNED FAMINE

By Dan P. Van Gorder

In March, 1961, President Kennedy asked Congress for a new kind of farm program based on a "supply management" system in which committees of farmers, controlled by the Secretary of Agriculture, would regulate both production and income of American farmers. The system would have been basically the same as the fascist system in Italy under Mussolini, and not greatly different from the collective-farm system of communist countries. Congress rejected the "supply management" farm proposals in 1961, and rejected a modified version of it in 1962.

This year, the same proposal is again before Congress, in disguise. President Johnson wants Congress to pass the Agricultural Stockpile Act (HR 12784), which would grant the Secretary of Agriculture autocratic power to control production, storage, and sale of farm commodities under the pretext of acquiring and maintaining stockpile reserves of commodities the nation may need in an emergency. This unconstitutional proposal would convert our farms into collectives controlled by the federal bureaucracy. There is something else especially significant about the proposal: it is based on the assumption that America may face critical food shortages. President Johnson's ordering an increase in wheat acreage this year reflects the same assumption. All previous federal farm proposals (since 1933) have been based on the assumption that our main farm problem is over-production.

In the following article, Dan P. Van Gorder, an experienced agricultural statistician, shows that the over-production theory was a hoax from the beginning, and suggests what should be done about our farm problem.

Americans live on the only continent of earth never visited by famine. Superficial reasoning occasionally attributes this blessing to the wide range of our climate and soil types. But a closer look

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

Copyright by Dan Smoot, 1966. Second Class mail privilege authorized at Dallas, Texas
No Reproductions Permitted.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

at history refutes this opinion. Economists and sociologists must, aside from the mercies of Providence, seek the explanation in the thrift, determination and purposes of the people who settled our eastern seaboard and later, mile by laborious and dangerous mile, pushed the frontier westward to the Pacific.

We who enjoy the rich heritage left by these hardy pioneers should not forget that they fled from persecutions in the Old World and came into the North American wilderness, not to find an easy way of life, *but to work.* Unlike the Spanish soldiers of fortune who swarmed across what is now Mexico, Central America and much of South America, plundering and murdering for gold in the holy name of religion, the men and women who settled Virginia and New England sought only opportunities to wrest with their hands from a virgin land man's three necessities — food, shelter and clothing.

Perhaps a significant key to the resourcefulness of these brave migrants may be found in the edict attributed to Captain John Smith of Jamestown: *he who will not work shall not eat.* Whether or not the doughty old warrior actually said this, it encompasses the principles of our nation's conception, birth and growth. And now, in 1966, chiefly because these dauntless architects of a new occidental civilization planted deep in our national consciousness a firm spirit of industrious self-dependence, we can say with pride and gratitude: *famine has never blighted our land.*

But this immunity, like the sturdy human factors that so long have guaranteed it, is ending. It is ending in cascades of cajoling cliches about building a Great Society. It is ending in deluges of buttery banalities about a world in which every person, the idle along with the industrious, will be fed, housed, clothed and educated by a benevolent, fatherly government. It is ending in a plethora of oily phrases by politicians who conveniently overlook the simple facts that slums are not locations and buildings, but people; that poverty is often the fruit of calculated laziness and indolence, not of denied opportunities; that governmental paternalism always has been and always will be an opiate, not an incentive, to a strong, industrious citizenry.

Chiefly because the American people have passively permitted their food supply to remain a political football for almost four decades, they are now heedless of an approaching food crisis. They *must be* roused from their long pleasant but dangerous delusion of abundance to the awful reality that unless they demand an immediate shifting of legislative and administrative courses in Washington, we may have a nationwide food shortage of famine proportions within a few years. A widespread drought throughout the Middle West would hasten and intensify the disaster.

This is not a shot-in-the-dark prediction. It has no political overtones. It is not based on academic theories or the opinions of the spend-yourself-out-of-debt economists who shape and direct the government's fiscal policies. It is a soundly documented warning based on recent history and simple arithmetic.

Any honest, objective inventory of our national food resources must take cognizance of two facts: first, government farm production records are unreliable; second, officials of the United States Department of Agriculture have withheld and are withholding from the public the full truth about food by stressing total production and avoiding a per capita analysis of our domestic supply — production less exports.

When the make-America-over contingent moved into seats of policy-shaping in the Department of Agriculture in 1933, they decided, according to George N. Peek, first Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, to start their well-laid plans to sovietize the United States by fastening the tentacles of regimentation around farming. Because the defunct Federal Farm Board of the Hoover Administration had already "sold" the public and Congress on the over-production theory, these ardent admirers of Russia under the elastic liberalism of Henry A. Wallace, climbed aboard the surplus food wagon already in motion.

But they were not unaware that a formidable obstacle lay in their way — the truth. Farm pro-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

duction records, compiled by and entrusted to the keeping of the Department of Agriculture, showed conclusively that food production per capita in the late 1920's was 15 to 20 percent below that around the turn of the century. In addition, an exhaustive study by a team of food economists in the Department (later published as Agricultural Circular 296) and a survey by the reliable Brookings Institute of Washington, both reached identical conclusions: under-consumption, not over-production, was America's farm problem.

Faced with these roadblocks, the totalitarian enthusiasts did the obvious: they suppressed Circular 296 and falsified the permanent farm records to gain credence for their theory that over-production was our farm problem.

Upon the basis of absurdly falsified statistics, Congress enacted our first farm regimentation laws; and every Congress since has passively stamped its approval. What should disturb every citizen in 1966 is the knowledge that our national food inventories now and in the future remain predicated on these fallacies.

The other half of the picture is even more disquieting. The United States Department of Agriculture habitually refers to our food resources in terms of total production. But production totals do not reflect the scope of our commercial exports and particularly our massive giveaways which are included in exports. Consumption figures that are published do not reveal how much of the supply has been imported. No official analyses show how much of the food on American dining tables is produced at home, how much is produced abroad.

Production records on most fruits and vegetables were not kept before 1920; but production records on all cereal crops (wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, rice) go back to 1900, and so do production records on apples, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes, beef, pork, mutton. Let's examine the trends of the domestic supplies of these.

The per capita domestic supply of all cereals averaged 2,536 pounds in 1900-1904 but only 1,488 pounds in 1960-1964, a decrease of 36 percent.

Our per capita domestic supply of beef, pork and mutton has fluctuated considerably over the past 65 years but shows a slight increase between the two comparative periods — 162 pounds in 1900-1904 and 165 pounds in 1960-1964.

In the same period, however, our domestic supply of potatoes per capita has declined from 210 pounds to 143 pounds; sweet potatoes from 35 to 9 pounds; apples from 114 to 39 pounds; and peaches from 25 to 17 pounds.

In 1920-1924 our domestic supply of all foods and feeds averaged 3,508 pounds per capita; in 1960-1964, only 3,097 pounds — a decrease of 411 pounds for every man, woman and child in the United States.

How, it may be asked, does this downward trend, sizeable as it is, portend the imminence of a famine, or even a serious food shortage?

To gain a broader perspective of the entire food situation it is necessary to return to the suppressed Agricultural Circular 296.

Speaking in Ames, Iowa, November 4, 1935, Lester J. Dickenson, then senior U. S. Senator from Iowa, said:

". . . . let me cite to you the Department's own Circular No. 296, published in November 1933, just six months after Messrs. Wallace and Tugwell took office but of which, it is obvious, they have never heard. Representing years of patient research, it is one of the most important documents ever issued by the government . . . . Here is set forth, carefully analyzed by different classes of population, the future food requirements of the nation . . . . Outlined are three diets, one of moderate costs for the average person who works, calling for a food supply of 1,655 pounds annually; one of minimum costs, necessary for health, requiring 1,233 pounds of food; and an emergency diet, needed for life itself, of 959 pounds. . . . The important part of these computations is that, for even a prosperous year like 1928, the entire food production of the United States failed to meet the needs of this moderate cost diet by *over twenty billion pounds.*"

With a national food deficiency of such considerable proportions 38 years ago when we had a

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

population of only 121,000,000, what must be the full truth today with over 195,000,000 persons depending on the American pantry?

Too, in measuring our present food resources and potentials it must be remembered that more than 25 percent of our people lived on and worked the land as farmers in 1928, but only 6 percent in 1965. Compounding the ailment, our food and feed exports averaged only 190 pounds per capita in the late 1920's, whereas (swollen by our Food For Peace extravaganza), they averaged over 600 pounds in 1963 and 1964. Further, with 94 percent of our people already crowded into urban areas and the Great Society deliberately piling costly inducements on top of costly inducements to lure more people from the land, the end is ominously obvious.

But it is a heartening and at the same time an awesome thought that when the American citizen enters his voting booth next November to elect an entire new House of Representatives and one-third the Senate membership, the major responsibility for continuing our bankrupting farm control fiasco, and the dissipation of our wealth over the entire habitable earth, will pass from Washington to him.

The voter must decide which he prefers — sanity, or continued political recklessness in government; abundance, or the awful specter of approaching famine.

If America of the 1960's and early 1970's is to escape food shortages of famine proportions, the voter's course of action and responsibility this year are plain. He should not merely suggest but unmistakably demand that the candidate he supports for Congress declare publicly his intention to:

(a) Support the immediate repeal of all farm regulatory legislation and termination of all administrative policies that in any manner interfere with the farmer's freedom of choice and action in production and distribution.

(b) Repeal P. L. 480 in its entirety. (This is the legislation authorizing the strewing of our diminishing food supplies around the globe, a large portion of which is "sold" for foreign currencies and the money then spent in the recipient's country to build roads, construct factories, etc., much of this within a few hours' march from Russian borders).

(c) Repeal all parts of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act pertaining to farm commodities — raw or processed.

* * * * *

SUGGESTION: Distribute copies of this *Report,* not only to persons in a position to influence public opinion, but to everyone of voting age — especially to farmers.

REPRINTS OF THIS ISSUE
(for bulk mailing to one address):

1 copy	$ .25	100 copies	$ 6.50
10 copies	1.00	200 copies	12.00
25 copies	2.00	500 copies	28.00
50 copies	3.50	1000 copies	50.00

Texans Add 2% for Sales Tax

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT TAylor 1-2303
BOX 9538 DALLAS, TEXAS 75214

THE BONDAGE OF THE FREE (381 page paperback)

1 copy	$ 1.00
5 copies	3.75
10 copies	7.00
25 copies	16.75
50 copies	32.50
100 copies	60.00

Enclose payment with order

Name

Street Address

City State Zip Code

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED